

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 MC-02

ACDA-10 /081 W

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R 022200Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2612

INFO ZEN/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 1151

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0217

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, PINT, CA, US

SUBJECT: CANADIAN DEFENSE MINISTER SAYS CANADA WILL NOT OPPOSE  
TRIDENT BASE CONSTRUCTION

1. PRESS REPORTS STATE CANADIAN DEFENSE MINISTER JAMES RICHARDSON SAID FEBRUARY 28 AT VANCOUVER NEWS CONFERENCE CANADA WILL NOT PROTEST CONSTRUCTION OF TRIDENT NUCLEAR SUBMARINE BASE AT BANGOR, WASHINGTON, 100 MILES SOUTH OF VANCOUVER. RICHARDSON QUOTE AS SAYING "I BELIEVE A STRONG TRIDENT CAPABILITY IS A DETERRENT TO WAR. THEREFORE THE BUILDING OF THE BASE, WHEREVER IT IS BUILT, HELPS DETER WAR."

2. TRIDENT SUBMARINE ALLEGEDLY WILL PROVIDE FIRST STRIKE NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. RICHARDSON ALSO QUOTED AS SUPPORTING NUCLEAR FIRST STRIKES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. HE SAID "I THINK THE ASSUMPTION IS AT THE TIME A CONVENTIONAL WAR IS TAKING PLACE, AND A DEFEAT IS TAKING PLACE AND THE COUNTRY IS NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT DEFEAT".

3. TRIDENT BASE HAS BEEN SUBJECT IN RECENT MONTHS OF NUMEROUS DEMONSTRATIONS IN VANCOUVER AREA BY BRITISH COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS. ALTHOUGH REPORTS INDICATED PREVIOUS PROVINCIAL NDP GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED OPPOSITION TO BASE NO STATEMENT YET MADE ON SUBJECT BY PRESENT SOCIAL

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CREDIT GOVERNMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CONSTRUCTION, MILITARY BASES, SUBMARINES, TRIDENT BASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** MPOL, PINT, CA, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006